

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-2581

Shaw Meeting House Cemetery

17540 Wesley Chapel Road

Monkton, Baltimore County

1803 ca.

Private

Located near the village of Troyer, the Shaw Meeting House Cemetery dates to the early 19th century as the burial ground associated with Shaw's Meeting, one of the earliest Methodist congregations in My Lady's Manor. In 1803, Joshua Shaw deeded a parcel of land for the construction of a Methodist meetinghouse. The first church, of log construction, was erected circa 1803 on the land occupied by the extant cemetery. Roughly forty years later, the church was replaced by a stone structure on the same site. In 1845, upon completion of the new edifice, the congregation changed the building's name from Shaw's Meetinghouse to Wesley Chapel. This change of name is evident on the 1850 county atlas. The atlas does not, however, depict the accompanying cemetery. In 1887, a brick church was erected to replace the second structure, which was considered to be unattractive. This third church was the first to be located on a separate parcel of land. Rather than being built on the original parcel of land, the brick church was sited across Wesley Chapel Road from the previous two buildings. After a devastating fire in 1901, the church was rebuilt, and its placement indicated on the 1915 county atlas. Wesley Chapel was demolished in 1976, after disuse resulted in vandalism. The land surrounding the Shaw Meetinghouse Cemetery has retained its rural characteristics through the late 20th century. *Although the associated church is no longer extant, the cemetery is still in use as a burial ground.*

Surrounded by an ornamental metal fence, the Shaw Meeting House Cemetery was established shortly after the construction of the first Shaw Meeting House circa 1803. The graves are arranged into two distinct groupings that flank a central grassy corridor on which the original log church was located. This section of the cemetery is presently distinguished by the placement of a brick monument that contains a metal bell. The roughly 200 to 300 graves are arranged into rows that extend from the northwest to the southeast, and the graves appear to be grouped by family association. Markers that span a broad range of forms, materials, and styles distinguish the graves. The majority of the grave markers are upright slabs of granite and marble, however some pillar monuments and bevel markers of granite are also present. Family names represented in the older sections of the cemetery include Pearce, Sparks, Troyer, Wilson, Vance and Heisse. The more modern grave markers reveal the names of the Shepperd, Ford, and Hodges families.

Inventory No. BA-2581

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Shaw Meeting House Cemetery

other

2. Location

street and number 17540 Wesley Chapel Road not for publication

city, town Monkton - vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Wesley Methodist Chapel
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street and number	Wesley Chapel Road	telephone	Not Available
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city, town	Monkton	state	MD	zip code	21111
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	liber	Not Available	folio	Not Available
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city, town	Towson	tax map	23	tax parcel	78	tax ID number	1023015125
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
___ district	___ public	___ agriculture	___ landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
___ building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___ commerce/trade	___ recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	___ buildings
___ structure	___ both	___ defense	___ religion	___	___ sites
<u>X</u> site		___ domestic	___ social	___	___ structures
___ object		___ education	___ transportation	___	___ objects
		<u>X</u> funerary	___ work in progress	<u>1</u>	___ Total
		___ government	___ unknown		
		___ health care	___ vacant/not in use		
		___ industry	___ other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2581

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Surrounded by an ornamental metal fence, the Shaw Meeting House Cemetery was established shortly after the construction of the first Shaw Meeting House circa 1803. The graves are arranged into two distinct groupings that flank a central grassy corridor on which the original log church was located. This section of the cemetery is presently distinguished by the placement of a brick monument that contains a metal bell. The roughly 200 to 300 graves are arranged into rows that extend from the northwest to the southeast, and the graves appear to be grouped by family association. Markers that span a broad range of forms, materials, and styles distinguish the graves. The majority of the grave markers are upright slabs of granite and marble, however some pillar monuments and bevel markers of granite are also present. Family names represented in the older sections of the cemetery include Pearce, Sparks, Troyer, Wilson, Vance and Heisse. The more modern grave markers reveal the names of the Shepperd, Ford, and Hodges families.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2581

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1803 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1803 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Located near the village of Troyer, the Shaw Meeting House Cemetery dates to the early 19th century as the burial ground associated with Shaw's Meeting, one of the earliest Methodist congregations in My Lady's Manor. In 1803, Joshua Shaw deeded a parcel of land for the construction of a Methodist meetinghouse.¹ The first church, of log construction, was erected circa 1803 on the land occupied by the extant cemetery. Roughly forty years later, the church was replaced by a stone structure on the same site. In 1845, upon completion of the new edifice, the congregation changed the building's name from Shaw's Meetinghouse to Wesley Chapel.² This change of name is evident on the 1850 county atlas. The atlas does not, however, depict the accompanying cemetery.³ In 1887, a brick church was erected to replace the second structure, which was considered to be unattractive. This third church was the first to be located on a separate parcel of land. Rather than being built on the original parcel of land, the brick church was sited across Wesley Chapel Road from the previous two buildings. After a devastating fire in 1901, the church was rebuilt, and its placement indicated on the 1915 county atlas. Wesley Chapel was demolished in 1976, after disuse resulted in vandalism.⁴ The land surrounding the Shaw Meetinghouse Cemetery has retained its rural characteristics through the late 20th century. Although the associated church is no longer extant, the cemetery is still in use as a burial ground.

¹ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

² S. B. Clemens and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County* (np: C. E. Clemens and S. B. Clemens, 1976), p. 35.

³ J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

⁴ S. B. Clemens and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County* (np: C. E. Clemens and S. B. Clemens, 1976), p. 35; see also *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2581

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Clemens, S.B. and C. E. Clemens, *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County.* C. E. and S. B. Clemens, 1976.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Two Acres

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Phoenix

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its establishment circa 1803, the Shaw Meeting House Cemetery has been associated with the two acres of land known as tax parcel 78 of map 23 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

5663 II NW
(NEW FREEDOM)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNIT
DEPARTMENT
CORPS

76°37'30"
39°37'30"

361000m.E.

362

VERNON 1 MI.

364 35'

365

4387000m.N.

WHITE HALL 0.5 MI.

BA-0880

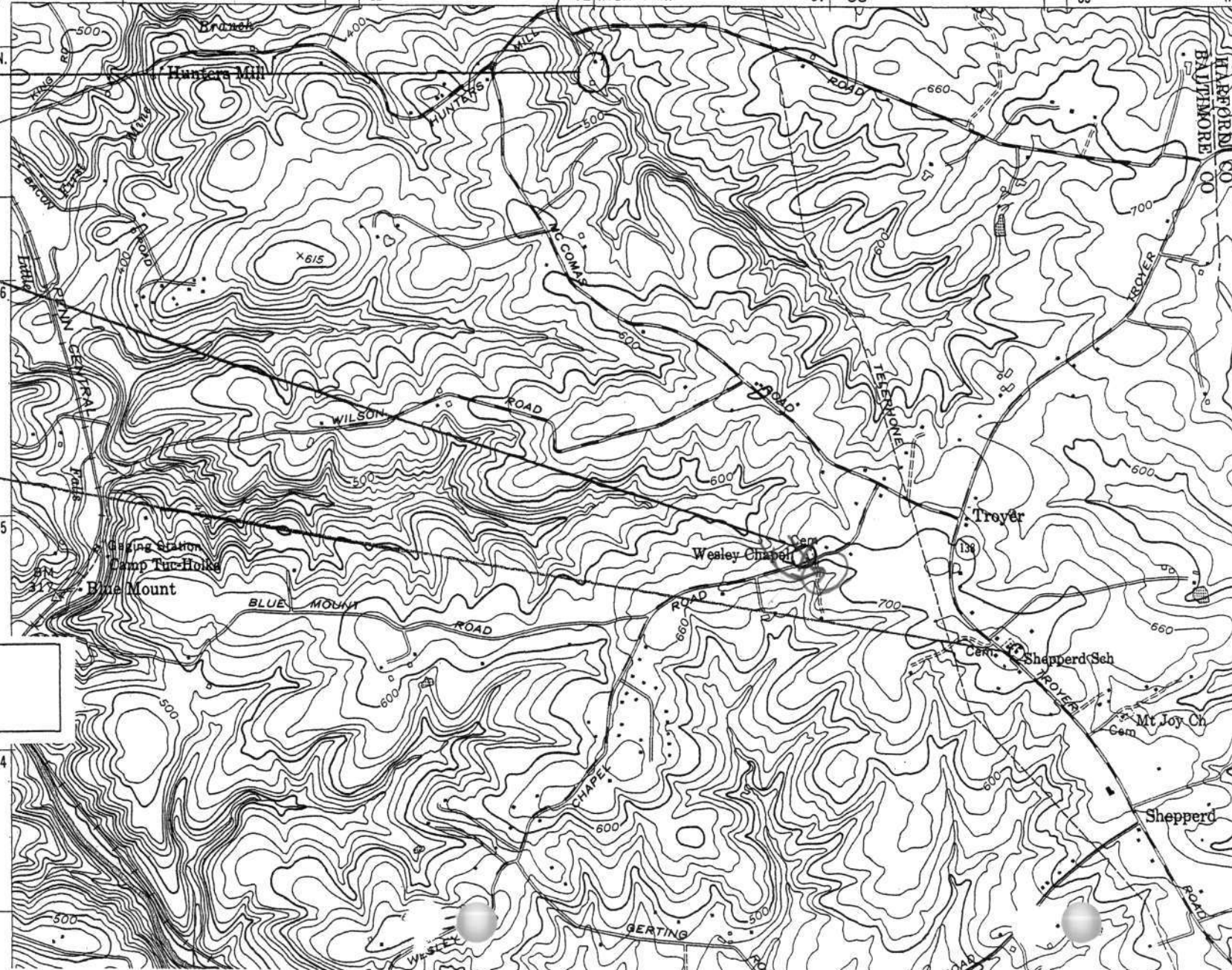
BA-2581
17540 WESLEY CHAPEL ROAD
MONTON
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2497
17737 TROYER ROAD

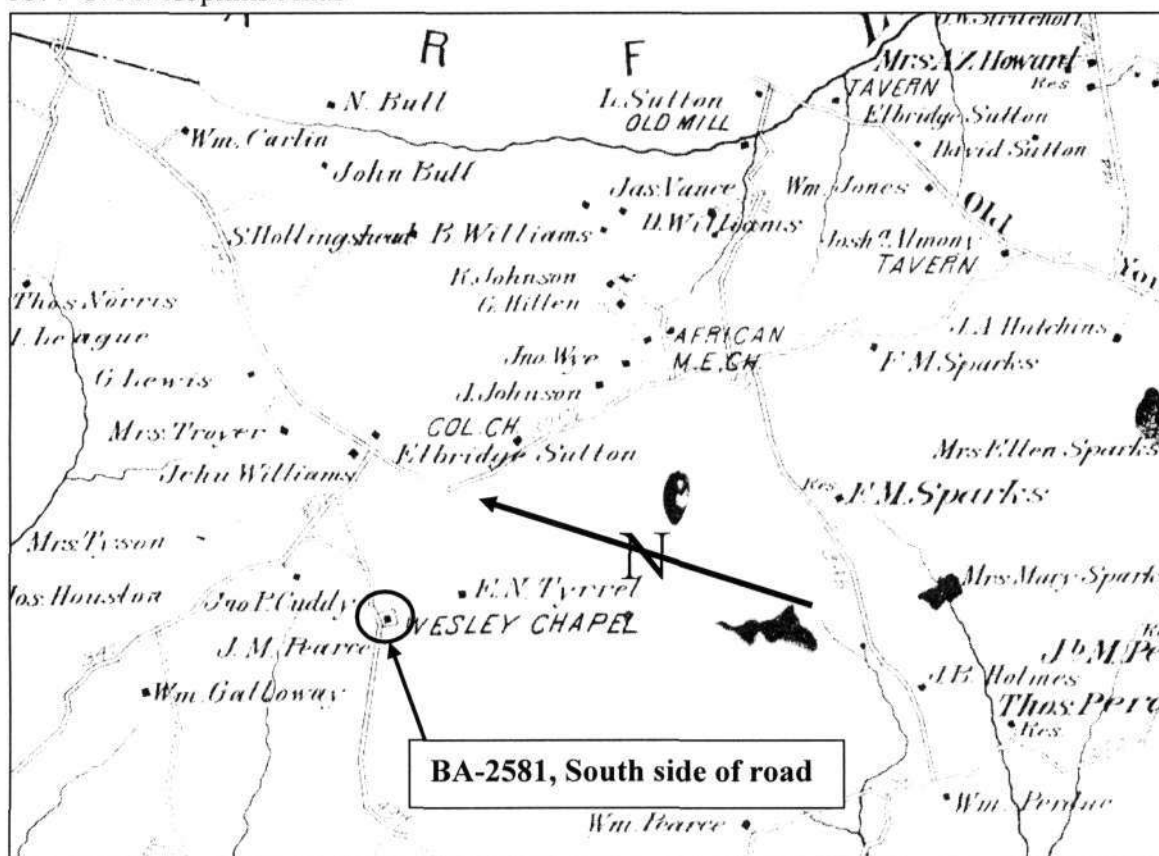
USGS Quad: PHOENIX
Scale: 1:24,000



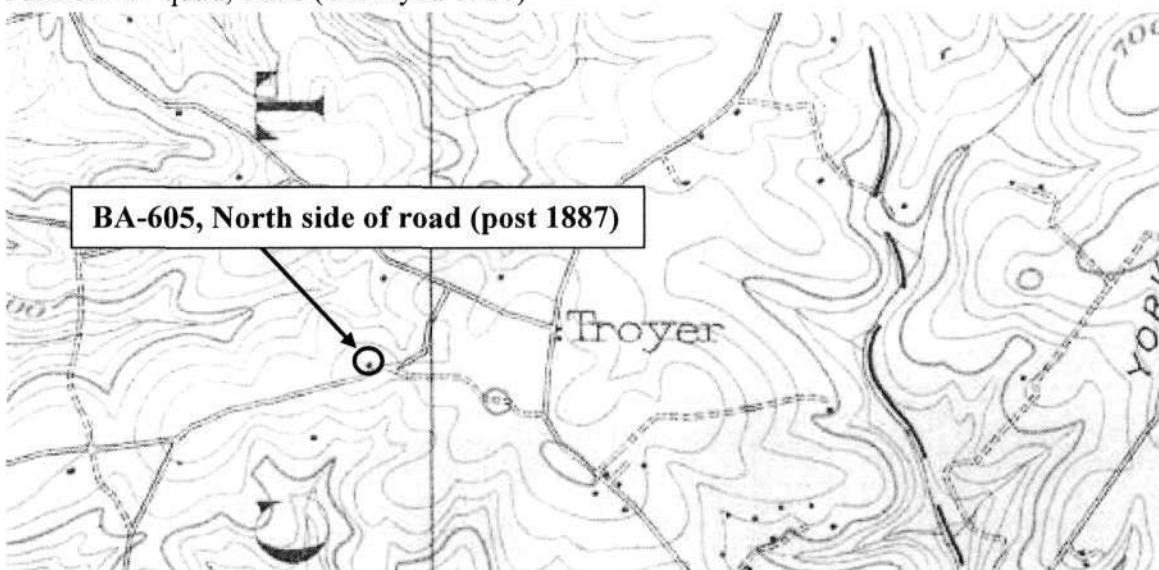
4384



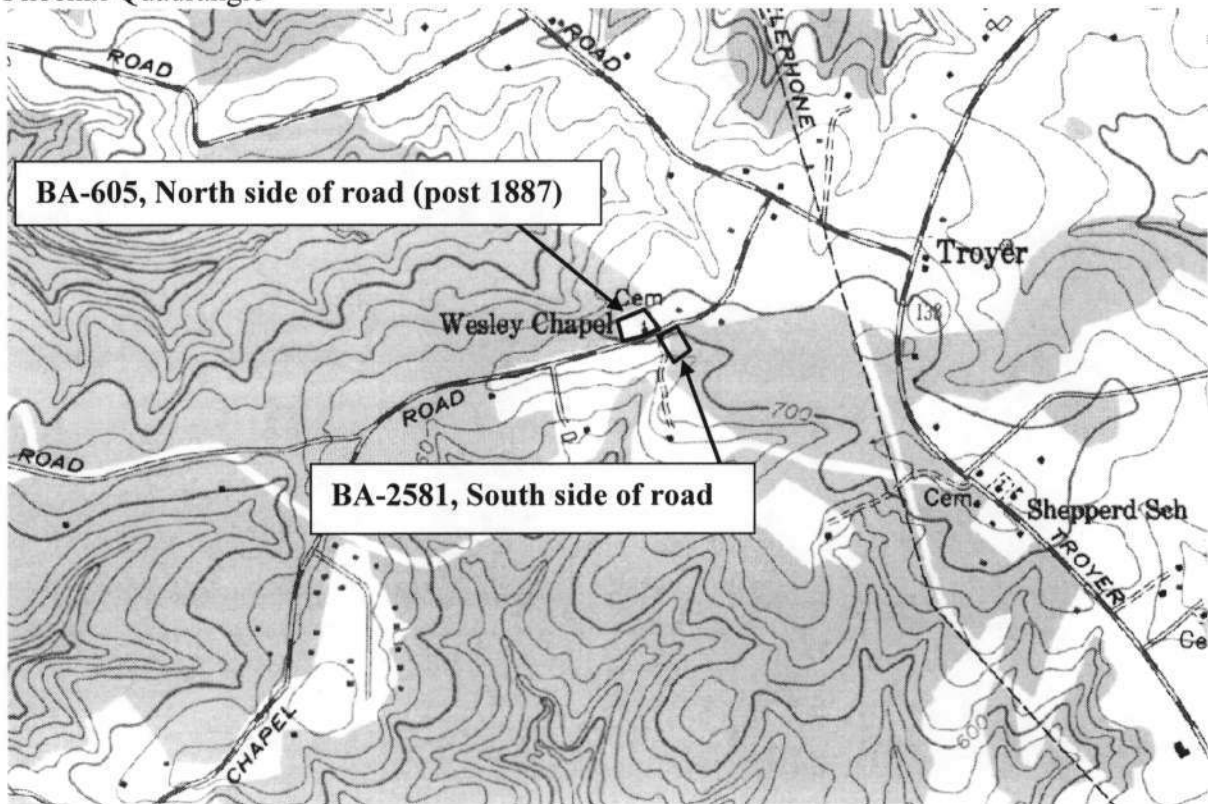
BA-2581
 Shaw's Meeting House Cemetery
 Wesley Chapel Road, Monkton
 1877 G. M. Hopkins Atlas



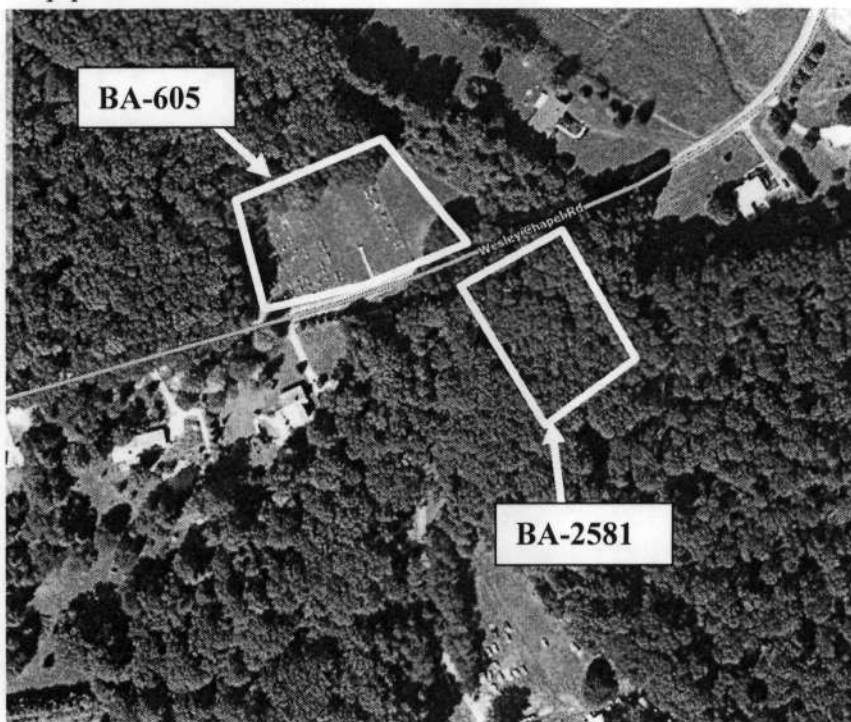
Parkton 15' quad, 1902 (Surveyed 1900)



BA-2581
Shaw's Meeting House Cemetery
Wesley Chapel Road, Monkton
Phoenix Quadrangle



Mapquest Aerial Photo, c. 2007





Note: photo is of
1st plot

BA-2581

17540 WESLEY CHAPEL ROAD, MONICTON
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

CEMETERY, LOOKING SW

1 of 3



BA-2581
17540 WESLEY CHAPEL ROAD, MONKTON
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES
3/2001
MD SHPO
CEMETERY, LOOKING SE
2013



BA-2581

17540 WESLEY CHAPEL ROAD, MONKTON
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

CEMETERY, LOOKING S

8 of 3

BA-2581 Shaw Meeting House Cemetery

SHAW'S MEETING CEMETERY - 1803 - South side of Wesley Chapel Road, 0.29 miles southwest of McComas Road, Monkton vicinity. A distinct and discernible cemetery is found on the east side of the road opposite the cemetery that adjoined the two brick Wesley Chapel structures of 1887 and 1901 (Site BA 505). The older cemetery was on the lot deeded in 1803 by Joshua Shaw for building the log Shaw's Meeting. (cf. S.B. and C.E. Clemens, From Marble Hill to Maryland Line, 1983, p. 37.) (Part of Parcel 78, Tax Map 23).

